

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01368 171449Z

46/14

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6525

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T KINSHASA 1368

EXDIS

DELIVER OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: FRENCH TRY TO STAMPEDE THE EEC INTO
RECOGNIZING THE MPLA

1. SUMMARY: AT LUNCH FEBRUARY 16, MOBUTU SAID THAT
FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA HAD LEARNED IN THE HAGUE THAT
GISCARD HAD TRIED TO "STAMPEDE" THE EEC INTO RECOGNIZING
THE MPLA. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE, MOBUTU IMPLIED THAT
THE FRENCH HAD LIKEWISE USED THEIR INFLUENCE WITH THE
IVORY COAST AND GABON TO BRING THESE COUNTRIES TO RECOGNIZE
NETO'S GOVERNMENT. REASON? ECONOMIC ADVANTAGE, SAYS MOBUTU.
THE MPLA HAVE PROMISED THE FRENCH THAT THEY CAN TAKE OVER
GULF'S CABINDA CONCESSION AND THAT THEY CAN HAVE EXPLOITATION
RIGHTS TO OFFSHORE RESERVES NEAR THE PETRO-FINA FIELD OFF

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PAGE 02 KINSHA 01368 171449Z

SAN ANTONIO IN NORTHERN ANGOLA. NGUZA PURPORTEDLY TALKED

THE DUTCH OUT OF RECOGNIZING BEFORE THE EEC MEETING IN
LUSAKA ON FEBRUARY 16. END SUMMARY.

2. MOBUT TOLD ME THAT HE HAD RECEIVED A REPORT FROM
FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA, WHO HAS VISITED THE HAGUE, TO
EFFECT THAT THE FRENCH HAD ASKED THE DUTCH TO
RECOGNIZE THE MPLA, AND THIS BEFORE THE EEC MEETING IN
BRUSSELS ON FEBRUARY 16. ACCORDING TO NGUZA, THE
FRENCH WOULD HAVE FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY AND THEN PRESSED
FOR EEC RECOGNITION AT THE BRUSSELS MEETING. WHEN NGUZA
MET WITH THE DUTCH, HE WAS INFORMED OF THIS PLAN AND INDEED
SHOWN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH THE GON HAD ALREADY AGREED TO.
NGUZA IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE ARGUED THAT SUCH RECOGNITION
WOULD (A) LEGITIMIZE NOT ONLY THE MPLA GOVERNMENT BUT THE
SOVIET/CUBAN INTERVENTION AS WELL AND (B) THAT IN ANY
EVENT THE COMMUNIQUE DID NOT REFLECT THE FACT THAT ZAIRE
WAS THREATENED BY SUCH INTERVENTION. MOBUTU SWEARS THAT
NGUZA WAS PERSUASIVE AND THAT THE DUTCH CANCELED THEIR
PLANS TO ANNOUNCE RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA BEFORE THE
BRUSSELS MEETING.

3. WHEN I EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT HIS FRENCH FRIENDS
WOULD WANT TO PUSH THE EEC INTO RECOGNIZING NETO'S GOVERNMENT,
MOBUTU SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN SHOCKED TOO, THOUGH NOW HE WAS
BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY GABON AND THE IVORY COAST HAD
JUMPED ON THE MPLA BANGWAGON. MOBUTU RECALLED THAT BONGO
HAD ANNOUNCED HIS RECOGNITION OF THE MPLA JUST AFTER HE HAD
LUNCHEDED WITH GISCARD, AND HE WONDERED IF THE FRENCH HAD NOT
LIKEWISE INFLUENCED HOUPHOUET. WHEN I ASKED WHAT INTEREST
THE FRENCH COULD HAVE IN PUSHING FOR MPLA RECOGNITION, MOBUTU
SAID THAT HE HAD INTELLIGENCE SHOWING THAT NETO HAD OFFERED
THE FRENCH THE RIGHTS TO GULF'S CABINDA CONCESSION AND
EXPLOITATION RIGHTS TO AN OFFSHORE FIELD NEXT TO PETRO-FINA'S
CONCESSION NEAR SAN ANTONIO, IN NORTHERN ANGOLA.
WALKER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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